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but is given to a glorification of the hero and is for the most part irrelevant to the main interest of the book.

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Commercial Geography. By EDWARD VAN DYKE ROBINSON. (Chicago: Rand, McNally and Company. 1910. Pp. xvliii, 455.)

Industrial and Commercial Geography. For Use in Schools. By CHARLES MORRIS. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1910. Pp. 332. \$1.00.)

Professor Robinson's textbook is one which will be widely read and used. It is interestingly written; it presents its abundance of facts vividly and attractively; it emphasizes the sequence of cause and effect in such a way as "to make students think"; and it, in many parts at least, avoids to a remarkable degree the stigma of being a "mere compendium of useful facts." Yet it has a fundamental defect which almost makes one regret the excellences which will cause it to be so widely read.

This defect lies in the author's conception of what commercial geography is. A statement in the preface sounds the key-note of its weakness: "The purpose of commercial geography . . . is to explain, in terms of all the factors involved, the geographic division of labor. More briefly, commercial geography is the study of the localization of industry." The factors involved in determining the localization of industry "are not only nature, but also man and capital goods" and "there are consequently three sets of controls—the natural, the human, and the economic . . . and commercial geography dare not neglect any one of them on penalty of becoming merely a mass of disconnected facts."

Now, the explanation of the localization of industry in terms of *all* the factors involved carries the study well beyond the limits of the science of geography. Many of the factors are purely economic, political, or even social; and are geographic only in the sense that they differ in the various regions of the earth. Economic geography, if it is to be worthy of that name, should attempt to explain the regional distribution of economic activities in terms of the geographic factors involved, and it must deal with both the direct and the indirect geographic causes of such distribution. It drifts out of its course when it treats physiographic "controls" in their direct causal connection with the localization

of industry and then uses the other sorts of "control" to complete the explanation of such localization, unless it can show that these latter factors are themselves controlled by geographic influences. A mere statement, for example, that Americans have a more highly developed inventive genius than Russians is not a geographic fact except in a very narrow and utterly inadequate sense of the term. The statement would become vitally connected with geography, in the scientific sense, only if it were shown that the roots of the difference between Americans and Russians lay deep down in the data of natural environment.

Some of the effects of environment on customs and institutions have been elucidated by anthropogeography, but very few; and the commercial or economic geographer, if he claims the right to use the term geography in connection with his field of work, must limit himself to the data which geography supplies him. Otherwise he becomes unscientific. The business of commercial *geography* is not to explain the localization of industry in terms of *all* the factors involved, but in terms of all the *geographic* factors involved.

The attempt to cover all the factors has not only carried the study beyond the bounds of geography; it has also led to a certain thinness in the work. The natural controls of industry are covered in two chapters containing but 23 out of the total of 455 pages of the book; the other factors being treated in a single chapter of 9 pages. Then both sets of factors are alluded to in more or less haphazard fashion throughout the remainder of the book, in connection with particular industries or countries. The entire work includes an examination, varying from a bare mention to a discussion covering a page or two, of some four hundred different industries and fifty or sixty countries. Obviously, the attempt to examine all the factors of control in regard to this multitude of activities and regions, within the limits of a single volume, must result, in large measure, in a resort to the dictionary or gazetteer method which the author decries in his preface.

In spite of these fundamental faults, however, the wealth of information which the author has at his command, and his skill in presenting it, makes the book distinctly the best American work of this encyclopedic class. Yet it must be used with caution, for the author's leaning toward a vivid style, and his tendency to run off the subject into sundry expressions of opinion on political or sociological affairs, has led him into exaggerations and some

positive misstatements. Altogether one can not but wish that the author had applied his talent and his rich collection of material to some more modest task than the explanation, in terms of *all* the factors involved, of the localization of *all* industries.

Little need be said concerning Mr. Morris' book. It belongs to the old type of texts on the subject and illustrates all their faults. Almost wholly descriptive, giving bare facts concerning industries, products, and countries, it makes practically no attempt to set elementary pupils to thinking, as to the causes which have led to the present distribution of man's activities. Its only merit as compared with earlier books of its class lies in the fact that some of its data are of more recent date. Even its style is of the barest and most uninspiring kind.

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NEW BOOKS

ARMINJON, P. *La situation économique et financière de l'Égypte. Le Soudan égyptien.* (Paris: F. Pichon et Durand-Auzias. 1911. 18 fr.)

ASHLEY, W. J., editor. *British dominions: their present commercial and industrial condition.* (London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1911. 6s. 6d.)

To be reviewed.

BACHTOLD, H. *Der norddeutsche Handel im 12. und beginnenden 13. Jahrhundert.* (Berlin: Rothschild. 1910. 2 m.)

CALVERT, A. F. *Nigeria and its tin-fields.* (London: Stanford. 1910. Pp. xvi, 188. 3s. 3d.)

CHISHOLM, G. *Handbook of commercial geography.* 8th ed. (New York: Longmans. 1911. Pp. 66, 666. \$4.80.)

COMMONS, J. R., editor. *A documentary history of American industrial society.* Vol. 10, *Labor movement.* (Cleveland, O.: Arthur H. Clark Co. 1911. Pp. 370. \$5.00.)

To be reviewed.

ECKERT, M. *Leitfaden der Handelsgeographie.* 3d ed., enlarged. (Leipzig: G. F. Göschen. 1911. Pp. 296, 53 maps, 211 diagrams. 3.60 m.)

Treats particularly of Germany and its colonies.

FRENCH, G., editor. *New England, what it is and what it is to be.* (Boston: Chamber of Commerce. 1911. Pp. 12, 431. \$2.00.)

To be reviewed.